(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) At present, subsidised domestic LPG is marketed by the distributors of the four Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and IBP Company Limited. Domestic LPG is partly subsidized by the Government and partly by the oil companies. During the year 2004-05, the total subsidy burden was Rs. 9830 crores. This Ministry has recently written to the State Governments seeking their views on restricting the subsidy on domestic LPG to only BPL families.

The Government has also recently allowed Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Gas Authority India Limited (GAIL) to market LPG produced by their fractionators subject to certain terms and conditions. With a view to operationalizing the mechanism, the matter was recently reviewed in the Ministry and ONGC and GAIL were asked to give their proposals. The proposals received from them are under examination in the Ministry.

Overhauling of ATC system

*295. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appropriate measures have been taken to overhaul the Air Traffic Control system to remove congestion at the Airports minimizing thereby the waiting period to get all clear signals to land at the Airports;

(b) if so, whether such an exercise will also be done at Nagpur Airport which of late is experiencing greater air traffic; and

(c) what is the time-frame in covering all Airports in the country for this type of overhaul?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present equipment at Nagpur is adequate to handle the current traffic.

(c) The overhauling of ATC System at airports is a continuous process and is taken up based on the traffic requirements.

ONGC's Investment in Nigeria

*296. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has signed an agreement with Nigeria for oil exploration recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been done about the geological conditon or production potential before signing the agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) ONGC-Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL), a joint venture of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Mittal Investment Sarl and SBI Caps, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Petroleum and Resources of Nigeria in November 2005. The MoU includes an offer from the Nigerian side of OMEL to consider offering oil exploration blocks on a nomination basis; a certain quantity of oil on a term-contract basis; and LNG when the fields/infrastructure have been developed in Nigeria. In return, OMEL will consider participating in Nigeria's infrastructure development projects in the refinery, railways and power sectors. The details in regard to this "economic package" are to be worked out over the next few months.

Disposal of cases for the protection of small shareholders

†*297. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether much time is taken in the disposal of complaints received under the laws made for the protection of small shareholders;

(b) if so, whether the complaints received in the last three years have been disposed of within three months, six months, nine months and one year; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.